

Remarks

Applicant has received and carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed March 19, 2008. Claims 1-14, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 22-54 have been canceled and claims 15, 18, and 21 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 15, 18, and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 15, 18, and 21 have been so rewritten and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 13 and 50-52 are rejected as being indefinite. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection; however, in the interest of furthering prosecution, these claims have been canceled, rendering the rejection moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 22-30, 36-41, 50, and 53-54 are rejected as being anticipated by Reader (US 3,554,669). Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection; however, in the interest of furthering prosecution, these claims have been canceled, rendering the rejection moot.

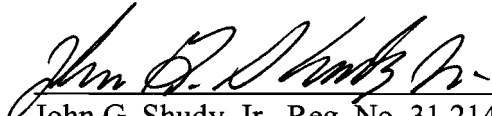
Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 9-12, 14, 16, 17, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Reader (US 3,554,669). Claims 6-8 and 51-52 are rejected as being unpatentable over Reader in view of Tennent (US 6,031,711). Claim 13 is rejected as being unpatentable over Reader. Claim 19 is rejected as being unpatentable over Reader in view of Fischer (US 6,583,407). Claims 42-46 and 49 are rejected as being unpatentable over Reader in view of Henoch (US 6,106,236). Claims 47-48 are rejected as being unpatentable over Reader in view of Henoch and further in view of Fischer.

Applicants do not concede the correctness of these rejections; however, in the interest of furthering prosecution, these claims have been canceled, rendering the rejections moot. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested. It is submitted that, in view of the above remarks, the pending claims should now be in condition for allowance. If a telephone interview would be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 19, 2008


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